

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 W

----- 082451

R 060648Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 908

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0282

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CD

SUBJECT: JIRS C PHASE FRANCO/CHADIAN BILATERAL TALKS CONCLUDED

REF: NDJAMENA 0237 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FRANCO/CHADIAN TALKS ON FULL RANGE BILATERAL INTERESTS BEGAN JAN. 23 UNDER LEADERSHIP OF GOF MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS GALLEY AND GOC MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMOUGUE. GALLEY RETURNED FRANCE JAN. 27, NLEAVING SUBORDINATES CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. TALKS SUSPENDED JAN. 30 AND FRENCH DELEGATION RETURNED PARIS FOLLOWING DAY FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. GOF DELEGATION EXPECTED RET., NDJAMENA IN EARLY MARCH FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS. FRENCH EMBASSY NDJAMENA CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC, ALTHOUGH FRENCH AMBASSADOR CHARACTERIZES CHADIAN ATTITUDE AS "TOUCHY AND TOUGH". END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH AND CHADIAN NEGOTIATORS FORMED THREE SUBCOMMITTEES TO REVIEW RELATIONS IN AREAS OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MILITARY ASSISTANCE; AND STATUS FRENCH GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTY IN CHAD. ON ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL SIDE GOF APPARENTLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS CONTINUE ASSISTANCE AT EXISTING LEVELS. GOF APPROACH TO ASSISTANCE IS PROJECT-ORIENTED, HOWEVER, WHILE
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GOCS PRIMARY INTEREST IN CASH ADVANCE MEET IMMEDIATE DEBTS.

3. WITH REGARD MILITARY QUESTIONS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR DALLIER TOLD AMBASSADOR LITTLE THAT GOC HAS REQUESTED TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, HELICOPTERS AND FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, PLUS TRAINING.

DALLIER SAID GOF WILL BE WILLING MAKE SOME MILITARY MATERIAL INCLUDING SOME AIRCRAFT, AVAILABLE TO GOC AND WOULD PROVIDE TRAINING AND FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING PILOTS WITH PROVISIO THAT NO FRENCH MILITARY WILL PARTICIPATE IN OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS. MILITARY MATERIAL IS OF MOST PRESSING CONCERN TO GOC WHICH APPARENTLY HOPES MOUNT MILITARY PARADE ON APRIL 13, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY COUP IN CHAD.

4. QUESTION FRENCH PROPERTY IN CHAD EVIDENTLY ONE OF MOST STICKY. GOC ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 2 THAT IN COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS GOC HAD DENOUNCED 1960 PROPERTY AGREEMENT AND THAT "AS OF TODAY THERE EXISTS NO LONGER ANY DOMAINE FRANCAIS ON THE TERRITORY OF REPUBLIC OF CHAD". AS FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE SOMMENTS, DENUNCIATION, IF STRICTLY DEFINED, WOULD INDICATE THAT GOC INTENDS TAKE OVER FRENCH CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE. IN FACT, GOC APPARENTLY DOES INTEND ATTEMPT TAKE OVER FRENCH HOUSING COMPLEX WHICH FORMERLY HOUSED FRENCH MILITARY OFFICERS WHICH GOF WISHES RETAIN FOR STAFF HOUSING. MORE SURPRISING, GOC WANTS TAKE OVER FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER (WHICH PURPORTEDLY WOULD THEN BE TURNED INTO PURELY CHADIAN CENTER) AND ARE WILLING RISH RUPTURE IN TALKS IF GOC INSISTS.

5. GOC PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON FEB. 2 CONCERNING TALKS STATED THAT TALKS WERE SUSPENDED AT REQUEST OF FRENCH AND THAT DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS FRENCH AND CHADIANS HAD AGREED THAT FOLLOWING ACCORDS ARE VOID: DEFENSE ACCORD BETWEEN FRANCE, CAR CONGO, AND CHAD; THREE ANNEXES OF ACCORDS RELATING TO DEFENSE REGARDING MUTUAL FACILITIES, COUNCIL ON DEFENSE OF EQUATORIAL AFRICA AND ACCORD REGARDING PRIMARY MATERIALS AND STRATEGIC PRODUCTS; AND FINALLY, ACCORD REGARDING STATUS FRENCH MILITARY FORCES IN CHAD. IN ADDITION TO UNILATERAL DENUNCIATION REGARDING FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IN CHAD NOTED PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH, GOC HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED UNILATERAL DENUNCIATION OF COOPE RATIVE ACCORD ON FOREIGN POLICY; CONVENTION WHICH ESTABLISHED CHADIAN STATE; AND CONVENTION GOVERNING ADMINISTRATION

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CHADIAN SCHOLARSHIPS IN FRANCE.

6. COMMENT: FRENCH EMBASSY UNHAPPY WITH TENOR AND CONTENT GOC PUBLIC DESCRIPTION OF FIRST PHASE OF TALKS BUT NOT TO EXTENT IT PLANS RECOMMEND PUBLIC RIPOSTE. FRENCH APPEAR TO BE BANKING ON FACT THAT GOC NEEDS ARE URGENT AND NO ALTERNATE SOURCE APPARENT WITH EXPECTATION THAT GOC ATTITUHES WILL HAVE MELLOWED BY TIME RESUMPTION DISCUSSIONS IN EARLY MARCH.LITTLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NDJAME00282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-1220
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacnex.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NDJAMENA 237
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRS C PHASE FRANCO/CHADIAN BILATERAL TALKS CONCLUDED
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006